

Appl. No. 10/092,792
Amdt. dated May 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2004

REMARKS

With regard to the requirement for election and restriction, which is the only point raised in the Official Action mailed on April 20, 2004, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the Group I claims.

However, it is believed that the Group II, Group III, and Group IV claims are so closely related to the Group I claims that they should remain in the same application in order to preserve unity of invention.

The different classifications of the Group II, III, and IV claims have been noted, but it is felt that these classifications are not necessarily conclusive on the question of restriction and election. It is believed that the Examiner is trying to draw too fine a line of distinction and that when all the facts are taken into account, the Group II through IV claims should remain in this application. Furthermore, a search of one Group would necessitate a search for the other, and therefore, it would be efficient to search both groups together.

In any event, to facilitate the prosecution of this case, Applicants elect Group I with traverse and reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected Group II, III, and IV claims.

It is believed that an action on the merits is in order and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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